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F.O.  
371

1947

PALESTINE

File No. 5091

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Reference:-

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371 / 61933

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E 5091

1947

PALESTINE

14 JUN

Registry Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

E5091/5091/21

G. G. G. G.

Washington

1399.

9 Jan 1947.  
14

*Protest against British troops.  
transmits correspondence, as received by  
Women's League for Palestine on the  
behaviour of British troops, gives  
particulars of incident at West of  
Jerusalem on night of 24, April.*

Last Paper.

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

S/B.

June 16th

61933

(Action completed)

(Index)

J. G. G. 16/6

[Signature]

Next Paper.

(Minutes.)

copy VCO.

to June 16

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No. 1399 ✓

200/248/47

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HIS Majesty's Ambassador at Washington presents his compliments to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

*British Embassy*

*Washington, D. C.*

E 5091

9th June . . . . ., 1947

Reference to previous correspondences

14 JUN

*Description of Enclosure.*

Name and Date.	Subject.
Copy of letter to Secretariat, Jerusalem 7th June.	Complaint of Women's League for Palestine in New York.

*[Handwritten initials]*

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7th June 1947

Ref: 200/248/47

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Secretariat,

We enclose herein a copy of a letter from the Women's League for Palestine in New York, together with its enclosure, about an incident which is alleged to have taken place in Jerusalem on the night of 24th-25th April.

We have sent an interim reply to Mrs. Prince, simply acknowledging her letter and saying that we are making enquiries of you. We should be grateful if you would inform us what reply should be returned to Mrs. Prince.

We are sending a copy of this letter to the Foreign Office.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY

Secretariat,  
Office of the High Commissioner  
for the United Kingdom,  
Jerusalem, Palestine.

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C O P Y

WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR PALESTINE

1860 Broadway, New York 23, N.Y.

June 2nd, 1947

His Excellency  
The British Ambassador  
British Embassy  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

Mrs. Magda Cohen, the Director of the Hostel for Haluzoth (women immigrants), erected and maintained by our organization in Jerusalem, has brought to our attention a most distressing incident involving the conduct of British troops in Jerusalem. The incident is best related in the letter which Mrs. Cohen felt impelled to write to the Commander of the 8th Infantry Brigade stationed in Jerusalem, copy of which I enclose for your information.

You will readily perceive with what shock we, an organization of American women, must view this instance of rowdyism which British troops are exhibiting in a country where they are presumably engaged in upholding public order. This matter is further aggravated if one considers that the girls intimidated and threatened in the course of the incident are victims of many years of horrible persecution at the hands of the enemy. You will realize that, unless curbed with dispatch and determination, such acts can easily degenerate into irreparable attacks on these girls by an undisciplined soldiery.

On behalf of the Women's League for Palestine, the American sponsors and owners of the Hostel for Haluzoth, we wish to register an emphatic protest against this behaviour of British troops and to express our earnest hope that all military ranks who participated in this outrage will be punished and that measures will be taken by the British authorities in control in Palestine to prevent similar outbreaks in the future.

We would be grateful if you could inform us regarding the measures taken to assure the future safety of our hostels and their personnel and residents from such outrages.

Believe us,

My dear Mr. Ambassador,

Yours sincerely,

MRS. WILLIAM PRINCE, President

MRS. DAVID L. ISAACS, Chairman  
Palestine Committee

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End

29th April, 1947

The Commander  
8th Inf. Bde  
Jerusalem

Sir:

May we draw your attention to the following incident: In the night from 24th to 25th April our girl residents of Room No.20 which is situated on the ground floor of our building, on the side of Abrabanel Street, were disturbed owing to sand being thrown against the windows.

At 2:30 a.m. the same night the room was lit by a strong flash-light from outside, and when the girls looked through the window, they saw, to their horror, soldiers standing at the window and threatening them with their guns. They started screaming and the soldiers disappeared. At 4:30 a.m. the same night soldiers once more threw sand against the same window.

The Hostel for Haluzoth is a social institution destined to give shelter to new immigrant girls and women. Those who come to us escaped mostly the death-camps of Europe. Acts as described above reminding them of a hard and bitter period of their life are apt to give them a new shock and to interfere with our endeavours to rehabilitate them to a better life.

May we, therefore, ask you to take the necessary steps that similar action may be avoided in the future.

Faithfully yours,

(Mrs.) MAGDA COHN  
Manageress of the Hostel for  
Haluzoth

Jerusalem

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